

against the approach of the whole British army—his driving back their columns of horse in three several charges which they made, and keeping them at bay untill Cornwallis advanced in person to his cavalry, reproached them with cowardice and by reinforcements of overpowering numbers at last compelled our troops to retire from the unequal contest—are remembered by the people of that region with a pride bordering on enthusiasm. And the part borne by Graham in that action, at the head of the volunteers of Mecklenburg—his command of the reserve covering the retreat, his being wounded and left for dead about four miles from the village, on the Salisbury road, are as familiarly known to the whole people of the western section of the State, as the defeat of Ferguson at Kings Mountain, or the fall of Davidson at the passage of the Catawba. It may be safely said that they are more generally known. The event occurred at his own home—in defence of that village in which five years before, while quite a youth, he had witnessed the declaration of Independence by the people of Mecklenburg—in a county which he often afterwards represented in the Legislature of the State, and in both of the Conventions which deliberated on the adoption of the Federal Constitution by North Carolina—in a vicinity where he ever after resided throughout a long life, and wore the scars of those wounds received there—and among a people whose militia he commanded in the capacity of brigadier general in 1814, when they cooperated with General Jackson in the subjugation of the Creek Indians. It is to be regretted, for the sake of peace to his ashes, that some portion of his public services had not brought him to the notice of the editors of the “National Intelligencer.”

It may be asking too much of those who discourse so flippantly of muses and poets as these reviewers do, to “consult” muster rolls and records for evidences of the reality of one, whom they are determined to consider as a mere *nom du guerre*. But what historian have they “consulted,” who furnishes a decent excuse for the mockery with which they have treated his memory? Is there any who professes to give details of the action at Charlotte in which the name of Graham is not mentioned? “Lee’s Memoirs of the War in the South,” written by a distinguished officer, who joined the Southern service soon after the affair at Charlotte, and, with this identical “unknown” of the reviewers, served in many a well-fought field in the winter and spring of 1781, contain this statement in substance: “On the approach of Cornwallis